

April 5, 1952

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Dear Kees:

Esther and I were, of course, a little disappointed about the summer situation, but we very well appreciate the overriding circumstances. I have had to make the same regretful decision for various people whom we might very much have liked to have visit us when there was just too little space and time. Do not think, however, that you have completely discouraged us, and we may very well sometime accept your proposal to spend some months with you, at a more convenient season.

Meanwhile, I may take a brief look at some purples (if Perry Wilson can provide me with the right cultures). However, things are moving so rapidly of a sudden in our coli work that anything else would be a distraction, rather than a diversion. We have a system that shows several percent (sic) recombination between cells mixed for only an hour or two, and I am looking forward to a struggle with microscope and micromanipulator. The more I think of it, the more attractive appears the prospects of an analysis of the genetics of the chromatophores. Plastid inheritance in green plants does not rest on so secure a foundation of fact as many people have been led to believe, and there are a lot of potential problems. A great deal would depend on the technical suitability of the purples for genetic work, and this cannot be predicted.

Perry probably does have suitable material for a few preliminary peeps; if not, perhaps I may ask your help. At this stage, types such as *Rhsp. rubrum* or *Rhodobac. palustris* would appear the most appropriate. It would be best to have cultures that can be grown as well aerobically in the dark as in the light, and which form well-pigmented colonies rapidly on the surface of agar. Perhaps this is already asking too much.

As to our local political scene, the recent primary does not bode too well for the chances next November. There is no Democratic candidate for the senatorial seat strong enough to attract any number of doubtful Republicans. We had hoped for some opposition in the Republican party; if Eisenhower (or anyone but Taft or McArthur) wins the presidential nomination, there is still a chance of a Republican fight. On the other hand if Taft is nominated, and the Democrats put up a strong candidate, there is a bare chance that Wis. would go Democratic again (as in 1948), and (unlike 1948) carry a number of the other offices. It's all very complicated. The Primary itself was almost uninterpretable, with Stassen vs. Warren (pro-Ike) vs. Taft, and a lot of Democrats voting in the Rep. primary.

Sincerely